

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (original). A method for distributing a print task among multiple printers, said method comprising the acts of:

sending a print task to a print processor;
sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and
modifying said print task with said print processor.

2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said sending said print task modification commands comprises reading command data from a configuration file.

3 (original). The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of prompting a user for print task modification commands.

4 (currently amended). The method of claim 2 3 wherein said prompting is print-processor based.

5 (currently amended). The method of claim 2 3 wherein said prompting is driver-based.

6 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said modification comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks.

7 (currently amended). The method of claim 5 6 wherein said dividing comprises job splitting.

8 (currently amended). The method of claim 5 6 wherein said dividing comprises copy splitting.

9 (currently amended). The method of claim 5 6 wherein said dividing comprises a combination of copy splitting and job splitting.

10 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said modifying comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks and further comprising the act of distributing said multiple modified print tasks to a plurality of printing devices.

11 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is a printer-ready file.

12 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is journalled printer data.

13 (original). A print processor capable of modifying a print task according to print task modification commands, said print processor comprising:

- an input for receiving a print task;
- an interface for receiving a print task modification command; and
- an output for sending at least one modified print task.

14 (currently amended). The print processor of claim 11 13 wherein said interface receives print task modification commands independently of said input for receiving a print task.

15 (currently amended). The print processor of claim 11 13 wherein said interface is a dialog box.

16 (currently amended). The print processor of claim 11 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for job splitting parameters.

17 (currently amended). The print processor of claim 11 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for copy splitting parameters.

18 (currently amended). The print processor of claim 11 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for copy splitting and job splitting parameters.

19 (currently amended). The print processor of claim 11 13 wherein said interface prompts a user for multiple printer selection.

20 (original). A computer readable medium comprising instructions for modifying a print task with a print processor, said instructions comprising the acts of:

- sending a print task to a print processor;
- sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and
- modifying said print task with said print processor.

21 (original). A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of modifying a print task with a print processor, said signal comprising instructions for:

- sending a print task to a print processor;
- sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and
- modifying said print task with said print processor.

22 (original). A method for modifying a print task with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:

- sending a print task to a driver;
- prompting a user for print task modification commands;
- creating a spool file for said print task;
- sending said spool file to a spooler;
- spooling said spool file to a modifying print processor;
- modifying said print task according to said print task modification commands thereby creating at least one modified print task;
- sending said at least one modified print task to at least one printing device.

23 (original). A method for distributing a print task to multiple printing devices with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:

generating a print task from an application, said print task being configured for printing on a single printing device;

invoking a print driver for combining device initialization and environment data for said single printing device and print task data from said application and creating a spool file;

obtaining cluster printing data;

sending said spool file to a spooler;

spooling said spool file to a cluster-enabled print processor (CPP);

modifying said spool file data with said CPP to cause said print task to be distributed to multiple printing devices thereby creating at least one modified print task; and

sending said at least one modified print task to said multiple printing devices.